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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

U.S. MAY TRY MEDIATION IN STRIKE

Wilson and Federal Board of Arbitration Are Preparing Plans in Case of Strike on American Railroads

Washington, Aug. 4.—Indications that the United States government is rapidly formulating the course of action it will pursue should the threatened railroad strike materialize, were seen today in a series of conferences between President Wilson and Judge Chambers of the federal board of mediation and conciliation.

The question also was discussed at length at the cabinet meeting. Chambers held his first conference at the White House with the president at 9 o'clock.

Upon entering the conference he expressed himself as optimistic over a successful termination of the pending differences. After talking with the president for half an hour, he prepared a statement authorized by the president. Before he could give it out, however, the president called him on the telephone, requesting another conference.

At the conclusion of the second one, it is believed likely a statement outlining the administration's proposition on the situation will be made either at the White House or the United States board of mediation and conciliation.

"I am inclined to think the scare about the situation at present is greater than the actual facts warrant," Chambers said. "I believe the situation is going to work out satisfactorily."

The senate interstate commerce commission and the United States chamber of commerce applied themselves today to consideration of a method to prevent the threatened strike.

The chamber wants the senate committee to give it a hearing. It probably will be granted. Arbitration by the interstate commerce commission will be urged by the chamber.

Organized with Senator Newlands at its head, the special investigating committee within a few days is expected to summon leading labor leaders and railway magnates for a hearing.

Washington, Aug. 4.—Following receipt of a telegraphic request from both sides for the services of the United States board of mediation and conciliation in the matter of the dispute between the switchmen's union and the railroads, Commissioner Chambers today dispatched Assistant Commissioner Hangar to New York.

GERMAN TROOPS RECAPTURE FLEURY

Berlin, Aug. 4.—German troops recaptured the village of Fleury and trenches west and northwest of the town in violent fighting this morning. It was officially announced this afternoon.

The village had been taken during the night by the French. The German counter-attacks south of Thiaumont work this morning recaptured the lost ground.

Northwest of Thiaumont, on the Chapire sector and in the mountain forests of the Vosges, French attacks were repulsed with heavy French losses.

On the Somme front Anglo-French attacks north of Ovillers, southwest of Guillemont, north of Monacau farm and near Barleux were repulsed.

LANSING SIGNS TREATY TO BUY DANISH INDIES

Washington, Aug. 4.—The treaty between Denmark and the United States for the purchase of the Danish West Indies for \$25,000,000 was signed in New York today by Secretary of State Lansing and Minister Brun, the state department announced today.

Early ratification of the treaty is expected. The sentiment of the United States senate favors such action and unofficial word from Copenhagen is that the conservative party, which rejected the proposal for the sale in 1902, is not now opposed to the sale.

Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee said today the opposition to the Danish West Indies purchase apparently was negligible and that he believed the vote to confirm the treaty would be unanimous. The only opposition at all was because of the price paid.

Under the treaty the United States obtains the islands of St. John's, St. Croix and St. Thomas.

The house of representatives as well as the senate will have to ratify the treaty for this country, because of the money involved.

From the United States' standpoint the chief gain in getting the islands is strategic. For European governments to hold the West Indies is considered to threaten this country's interests.

ITALIAN LINER SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN

London, Aug. 4.—Between 80 and 100 persons are missing and many have perished in the sinking of the Italian mail steamer Letimbro by a submarine in the Mediterranean. Included among those unaccounted for are many women and children.

Dispatches received here today said that only three boat loads of survivors have been landed thus far, two at Syracuse and one at Malta. Survivors declared that a panic ensued during the lowering of the boats when the submarine, overhauling the steamer after a chase, began shelling her at close range. A number of passengers and crew are reported to have been killed and wounded by shell fire.

The Letimbro is the first large passenger liner sunk by a submarine in several months. She was attacked by one of the fleet of Austro-German submarines which has displayed great activity in the Mediterranean within the past few days.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Judging from the reports of the survivors, the United States has no immediate interest in the shelling and sinking of the Italian liner Letimbro by a submarine, state department officials said today. There were no Americans reported aboard, and the vessel was said to have been attempting to escape.

American consuls near the scene of the disaster will make inquiries, however, to determine whether any Americans were among the crew or passengers.

TWO LABOR UNIONS FAVOR PROHIBITION

San Francisco, Aug. 4.—Two San Francisco labor organizations have reversed their positions on state-wide prohibition. They are asking other unions to take similar action.

The Riggers and Stevedores' union and the Water Front federation, formerly opposed to the two "dry" measures which will come before the people at the November election, have voted to support both. Officials of the two organizations say this action was taken because of the open shop campaign of the law and order committee of the chamber of commerce.

NORTHWEST GRAIN WORTH MILLIONS IS DESTROYED

Tornadoes and Hailstorm Ruin Crops on Both Sides of the American-Canadian Line to the Extent of Ten to Fifteen Million Dollars. All Connections Temporarily Cut Off and Thousands of Square Miles Are Affected

St. Paul, Aug. 4.—The wheat-crop of the great northwest on both sides of the American-Canadian line was so seriously damaged today by hailstorms and tornadoes that the damage this afternoon was variously estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

As telegraphic communication was restored with the damaged towns, it was learned that an area of one hundred square miles in one section of Saskatchewan and of more than a million acres in the Dakotas and Minnesota had been swept by two separate storms.

The Canadian damage was estimated at \$5,000,000. Late reports this afternoon from Crookston, Minn., said damage to crops there would run high into the millions, perhaps five millions. From Fargo, N. D., it was said the damage in that vicinity would be at least \$5,000,000 and perhaps \$8,000,000.

The rusted and blighted wheat, turned over under the hail, was battered down, broke off and is practically valueless. That which was not broken was laid flat by the wind.

Portland, Patton, Leeds, Garske, Edmoor, Melville and Nneeta, North Dakota, and Crookston, Thief River Falls and Red Lake Falls, Minn., were hard hit, although no one was believed to be killed. At Melville four buildings were wrecked by the winds and one woman injured. Fifty horses were killed near Aneta. A small cyclone cut a path through Grand Forks, N. D.

Reports from Carlisle, Sask., to Winnipeg, declared one hundred square miles of grain territory in

that vicinity was laid waste by hail. The loss to growing wheat was serious.

Scores of silos filled with grain were wrecked by the wind near Crookston. Standing grain in the fields was driven into the ground by hail and rain.

Grand Forks, N. D., Aug. 4.—Grain on 500,000 acres of land in thirteen counties of North Dakota and Minnesota was completely destroyed by hail and wind early today, with damage conservatively estimated between \$5,000,000 and \$8,000,000, it was learned this afternoon when communication with the storm-swept district was restored.

Winnipeg, Aug. 4.—The crops of Seager Wheeler, world's champion wheat grower, were destroyed in the terrific hail storm at Rosther, Sask., last night, it was learned today. Millions of dollars damage to the north Saskatchewan wheat fields resulted from the hail and wind. At Balcarres every window in the town facing west was smashed. Windows of passenger trains facing the side of the storm were also smashed in.

Pindlay, Ohio, Aug. 4.—A sharp decline in the price of gasoline is anticipated following another slash in the price of central-western oils today. The price was cut 10 cents on the barrel, making a 25 cent drop within two weeks.

New prices are: North and South Lima, \$1.48; Indiana, \$1.33; Illinois and Princeton, \$1.52; Wooster, \$1.70, and Plymouth, \$1.38.

THREATENED STRIKE WOULD MAKE FOOD SITUATION IN U. S. SERIOUS

New York, Aug. 4.—The United States would face one of the most serious food situations in decades if the threatened strike of 400,000 railroad men should materialize and become a protracted fight, according to opinions collected in a score of target cities by the United Press today.

As the impending tie-up of 250,000 miles of railroads by the army of railway employees would be the greatest of all strikes, so would the resultant loss and suffering be the greatest, business men from coast to coast declared.

Coast cities and cities located on navigable streams would be least affected, according to the symposium of opinions. But they would be hard hit, nevertheless.

Babies and children would feel the brunt of such a strike. There would obviously be great difficulty in supplying perishable foodstuffs to thickly populated centers, even with water facilities. Shortage of milk would be the first felt, the opinions agree.

Shortage of other foodstuffs would come according to how perishable they are, as well as to supplies held in warehouses and storage plants. Some cities could get along after a fashion for anywhere from two weeks to a month, steps having already been taken by city officials and public organizations looking toward motor supply trains that would scour outlying districts for foodstuffs. Philadelphia is one of these.

At the city statistician's office there it was stated that authorities would mobilize 30,000 automobiles to gather

supplies from the rich farming lands for forty miles west, south and north of the city. The supplies on hand now, officials said, would not last any length of time.

New York, being a clearing point for many other cities, could live for weeks, but until organization of the motor transportation could be achieved there would be some suffering. Some of the producing territory up-state could be tapped by way of the Hudson.

Los Angeles feels more secure than many cities, chamber of commerce members declaring the city could hold out from three weeks to three months with only little inconvenience.

The most pessimistic opinion came from Kansas City. The transportation commissioner there said Kansas City could not stand a nation-wide railroad strike 24 hours.

From Denver and St. Paul and Cleveland came opinions that the strike would not be felt, except for lack of milk, for from two weeks to a month.

In all cities, however, emphasis was laid on the suffering that would be caused from lack of milk. Many pointed out that the problem of getting coal would be very difficult to solve. In Kansas City and many other cities officials said a coal shortage would mean no motive power for the thousand and one uses to which it is put. Many officials said gasoline shortage for automobiles, etc., would prove a hardship, since motor vehicles would be largely depended on for bringing foodstuffs from producing centers.

RUSSIAN ARMY MOVES ON TOWARD KOVEL RAILROAD

Petrograd, Aug. 4.—Driving in toward Kovel, Russian detachments crossed to the left bank of the Stochod river in the region of Lubecho, capturing a series of heights, where they fortified themselves, it was officially announced today.

The enemy was forced back behind the river Stavok, a tributary of the Stochod. On the west bank of the Stochod the Russians advanced, fighting all the way. A bloody battle took place in the village of Ruda Midalski, where bayonet fighting was resorted to in the streets. The village changed hands several times, but was finally retained by the Slavs, who resisted repeated attempts to dislodge them.

In the region of Korytnik Russian fire repelled enemy columns. Elsewhere there was mutual artillery fighting on the eastern front.

CARRANZA HOLDS FOR WITHDRAWAL

Washington, Aug. 4.—General Carranza still insists that the first thing to be decided by the United States and Mexico is the withdrawal of the American troops. Mexican Ambassador Arredondo today delivered to Acting Secretary of State Polk a note, which, while naming a commission and tacitly accepting the latest American proposal for a joint commission to investigate Mexican-American relations, laid stress upon the fact that the Mexican commissioners are to devote their attention preferably to the resolution of the points mentioned in the previous note of this department.

The points referred to are the questions of withdrawal of United States troops from Mexican soil, border patrol and fixing of responsibility for border raids.

Washington officials agreed that Carranza in this manner is indicating his intention to urge these questions ahead of all others.

No specific mention is made of any broader issues to be discussed, although the last United States note particularly pointed out that the administration desires to go into a larger discussion of the Mexican problem than the purely military phase.

No doubt has yet been expressed, however, by state department officials that the Mexican conferees will show a willingness to take up questions of Mexican finances and industrial development. On the other hand, the note implies that the commissioners will follow whatever lead is made by American members, as they have been instructed to devote their attention preferably to the military problem.

NEXT K. OF P. CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN DETROIT

Portland, Aug. 4.—Detroit was selected today as the 1918 meeting place of the Knights of Pythias supreme lodge.

ITALIAN AEROPLANES ARE PUT TO FLIGHT

Berlin, via Sayville, Aug. 4.—Fourteen large Italian battle planes flew over Istria, via Pirano, at 7:30 a. m. Tuesday, the Austrian admiralty announced today, and were engaged by the Austrian Lieutenant Banfield in a hydroplane. Banfield ascended at Trieste and pursued the Italian squadron across the Istria peninsula, shooting down one Italian plane, killing the pilot and capturing two observers. The Austrian lieutenant and his hydroplane were unharmed.

BANDITS GET \$37,000 IN ROBBERY

Masked Men Stage Daylight Theft on Detroit Streets in Dramatic Setting—Shooting, and Automobile Escape

Detroit, Aug. 4.—While frightened pedestrians scurried to shelter before a fusillade of shots, bandits this afternoon held up and robbed the pay car of the Burroughs Adding Machine company of \$37,000.

Burroughs' officials admitted the extent of their loss this afternoon.

During an exchange of shots between the hold-up men and company guards in the car Randolph Cooper, a Burroughs employee, was shot through the hip and seriously wounded. He will recover.

The bandits were armed with automatic shotguns. Three men participated in the robbery and all escaped.

The pay car was within a block of the company's offices at the time of the attack. Riding close to the pay car, the robbers, who were driving a Ford automobile, suddenly pulled guns from the tonneau and ordered the driver to halt.

The money, in five boxes, was shifted quickly to the bandits' machine and the trio, driving at terrific speed, escaped down Cass avenue. A sixth box of money was left in the pay car.

In the pay car at the time of the hold-up were Paymaster Thomas Sheehan, Louis Kegelschatts and Frank Price employees of the Burroughs company.

Detectives and policemen by the scores patrolled the city this afternoon, searching for the robbers. They are armed with rifles, shotguns and automatic pistols. Ford cars, wherever encountered were stopped and searched.

The hold-up, which was the biggest daylight robbery in Detroit's history, occurred at the corner of Cass and Amsterdam avenues, near the company's plant. The messenger was returning from a branch bank with the company's payroll when the attack occurred.

OREGON EDITORS MEET AT MEDFORD

Medford is at present the Mecca toward which all the publishers and editors of newspapers in the state are flocking. The Oregon Editorial association is now in session there. Medford acting as host for more than one hundred editors and their families. Preparations have been made to give the visitors a hearty welcome, but the people there were hardly prepared for the large number in attendance.

The first day of the meeting included a trip to the summit of the Siskiyou, after which a banquet was held in Lithia park at Ashland. The means of transportation were furnished by the cars donated by Medford people.

Sunday a trip to Crater lake will be made. Night will be spent at the lake and the return made the next morning. The meeting will come to a close Monday afternoon.

Grants Pass will be short of editors for the next few days. A. E. Voorhies, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Coutant and Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Allen leaving this morning in the Voorhies car. They expect to return Monday evening. Mr. Voorhies will speak at the banquet in Lithia park, his subject being "How to Make a Country Daily Pay."